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ORIGINAL (Red)

FIELD INVESTIGATION TEAM ACTIVITIES AT UNCONTROLLED HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES FACILITIES — ZONE I

NUS CORPORATION
SUPERFUND DIVISION

ORIGINAL (Red)

R-585-5-9-53

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF VALMONT SITE PREPARED UNDER

TDD NO. F3-8904-12
EPA NO. PA-2245
CONTRACT NO. 68-01-7346

FOR THE

HAZARDOUS SITE CONTROL DIVISION
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

AUGUST 18, 1988

NUS CORPORATION
SUPERFUND DIVISION

SUBMITTED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
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ORIGINAL

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SECTION 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Authorization

NUS Corporation performed this work under Environmental Protection Agency Contract No. 68-01-7346. This specific report was prepared in accordance with Technical Directive Document No. F3-8904-12 for the Valmont Site, located in West Hazleton, Pennsylvania.

1.2 Scope of Work

NUS FIT 3 was tasked to conduct a preliminary assessment of the subject site.

1.3 Summary

The site is an upholstery manufacturing plant located in the Valmont Industrial Park, immediately northwest of the borough of West Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The site is approximately seven acres in size; there is one large manufacturing building on the property. The facility has a 10,000-gallon underground emergency collection tank along its northwestern side. This tank has been emptied and is no longer in use.

The available information indicating the history of the site dates back to1963, when a building shell was constructed by the Greater Hazleton Community Area New Development Organization, Incorporated (CAN DO). The shell remained empty until 1965, when Wallace Metal Products, a coffin manufacturer, bought the property. The operational history and waste types of Wallace Metal Products are unknown. From 1972 until 1978, the facility was operated by Futura Fabrics, which manufactured knitted fabric. Although the exact waste types and the operational history are unknown, a representative of Futura Fabrics reported that no solvents were used at the facility. Since 1978, the facility has been operated by Chromatex, Incorporated, an upholstery fabric manufacturer. Trichloroethene (TCE) was sprayed on the fabric as a carrier of Scotchguard (a stain repellent). Chromatex discontinued the use of TCE in June or July 1988.

Attention was called to the site because of an alcohol spill in October 1987 at Continental White Cap, which borders the site to the west. As a result of a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (PA DER) investigation into that spill, TCE was detected in home wells located immediately northeast of Chromatex, Incorporated. Concentrations as high as 1,400 ug/l were detected in the home wells. An extent of groundwater contamination study was performed by International Exploration, Incorporated, in cooperation with EPA, at the Chromatex No. 2 Plant; 11 monitoring wells were installed. Concentrations of TCE as high as 17,000 ug/l were detected in the monitoring wells. Chromatex, Incorporated is currently involved in court proceedings due to civil action brought against the company by local residents concerning the TCE contamination.

Water supply for the study area is provided by groundwater and surface water sources. Two municipal water companies supply water in the study area. The Hazleton Water Authority utilizes 6 reservoirs and 12 groundwater wells and supplies a population of approximately 40,000 persons. The Conyngham Water Company (CWC) utilizes five groundwater wells and water from a tunnel in the area. The population supplied by CWC is approximately 2,400 people. The remaining residents in the study area utilize home wells. The closest utilized home well is approximately 1.2 miles away. As a result of the TCE contamination identified in the nearby residential wells bordering the site to the northeast, EPA emergency funding was obtained for connection to the municipal water system.

NUS FIT 3 performed an on-site preliminary assessment of the Chromatex No. 2 Plant on April 27, 1989. Visual observation of the site indicated a relatively flat topography. The nearest surface water body is Black Creek, located approximately 1,250 feet north of the site. Potential migration to Black Creek appeared to be low; there was no discernible drainage pathway leading off site toward Black Creek.

SECTION 2

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

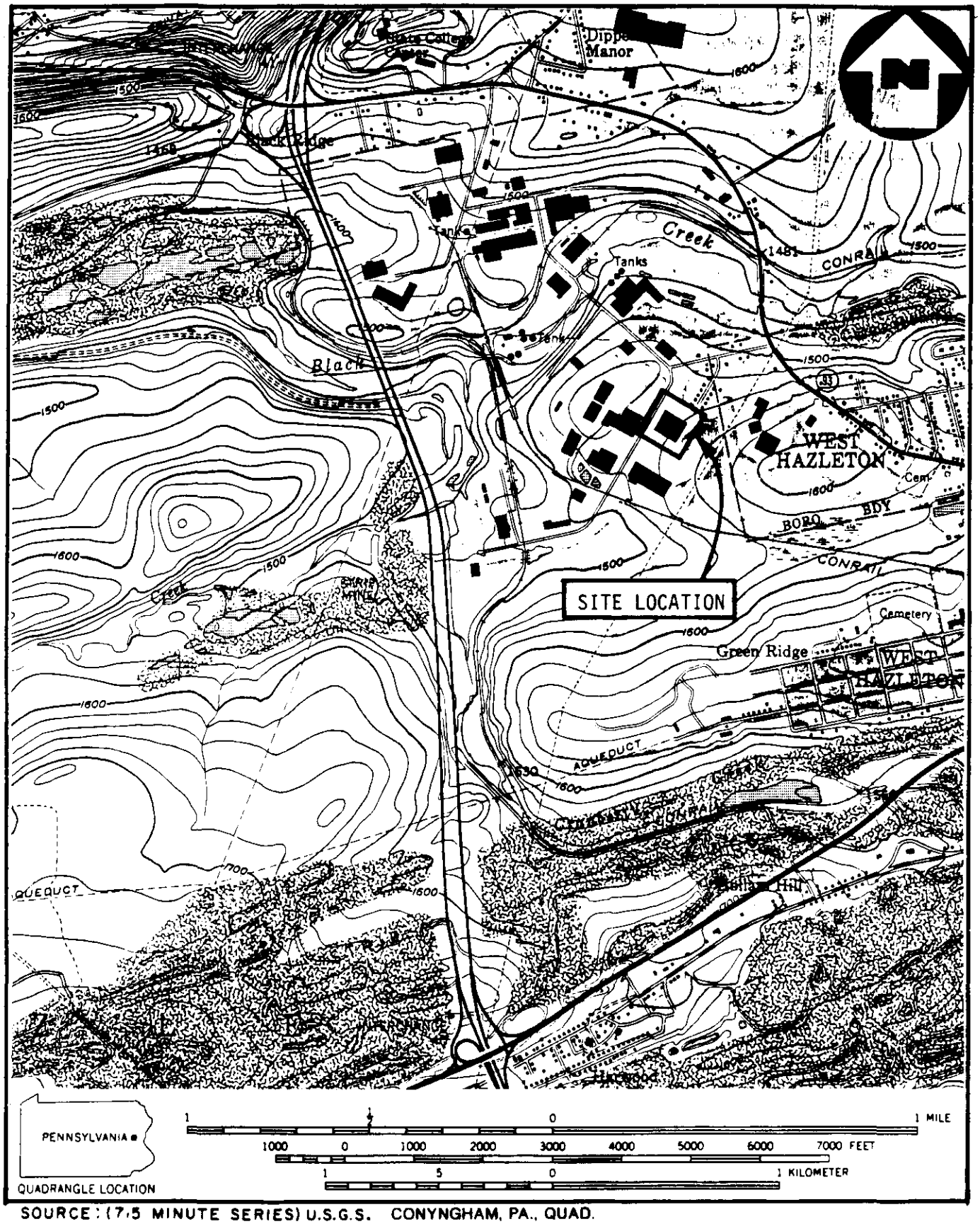
The Chromatex No. 2 Plant, also known as the Valmont Site, is located along Jaycee Drive in the Valmont Industrial Park in West Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (see figure 2.1, page 2-2). The site is located at longitude west 76° 00' 56" and latitude north 40° 58' 04" on the United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) Conyngham, Pennsylvania quadrangle. The site can be located by measuring 2.125 inches west and 16.75 inches north of the southeastern corner of the same quadrangle.[1]

2.2 Site Layout

The site is 6.92 acres in size and is located in an industrial park that is approximately 800 feet west of the West Hazleton Borough boundary. The topography of the site is generally flat. Surface drainage at the site would most likely travel in a northeastward direction, toward Black Creek.[2]

The site includes one large building that has several attachments. The northeastern side of the building contains a truck loading area and a catch basin, where chemicals that are spilled while being pumped into storage tanks are collected. A gravel parking lot is adjacent to the northeastern side of the building. Underground fuel oil tanks are located approximately 150 feet north of the eastern corner of the building. A monitoring well cluster containing 4 wells is located 175 feet northeast of the northeastern side of the manufacturing building (see figure 2.2, page 2-3).[2]

The southeastern side of the building contains a storage shed, a garbage bin, and an empty drum storage area. Two monitoring wells are located approximately 15 and 225 feet from the southeastern side of the building (see figure 2.2, page 2-3). A drainage ditch, originating near a roof-top drainpipe between the storage shed and the garbage bin, travels parallel to the southeastern side of the building in a northeastward direction. Two areas along the southeastern side of the building are used for empty drum storage. One area is located approximately 15 feet southwest of the storage shed; the second area is located near the southern corner of the building, along its southeastern side. These drums reportedly contained lubricating oil and well cuttings from the installation of the monitoring wells.[2,3]



SOURCE: (7.5 MINUTE SERIES) U.S.G.S. CONYNGHAM, PA., QUAD.

SITE LOCATION MAP

VALMONT SITE, WEST HAZLETON, PA.

SCALE 1: 24000

FIGURE 2.1

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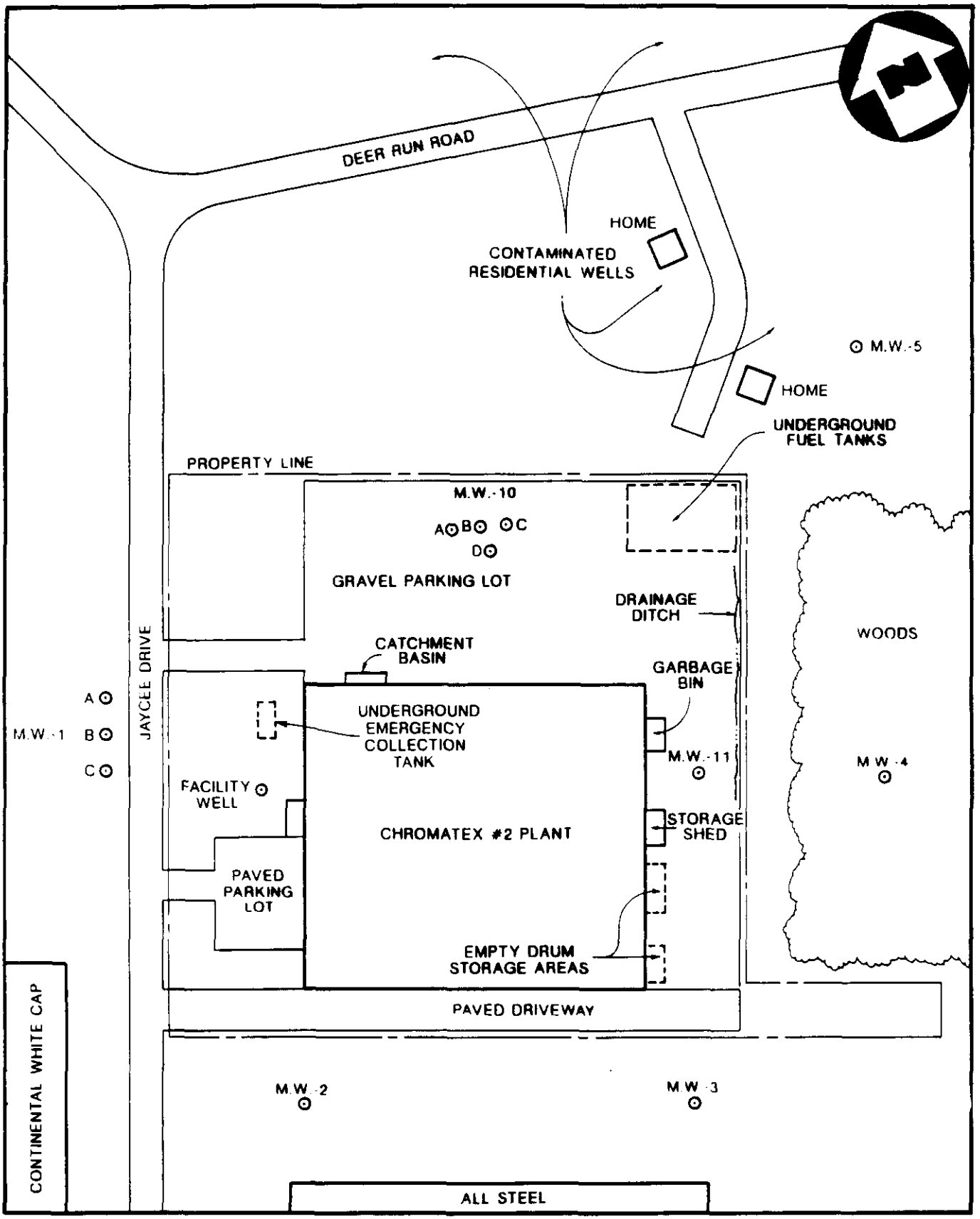

FIGURE 2.2

SITE SKETCH

VALMONT SITE, WEST HAZLETON, PA.

(NO SCALE)

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The northwestern side of the manufacturing building contains the plant entrance and a small paved parking lot. Jaycee Drive runs parallel to this side of the plant 100 feet from the building. A 10,000-gallon underground storage tank is located approximately 20 feet northwest of the building.[3,4] This underground tank was reportedly used for emergency spill collection. The tank is no longer used, and the contents of the tank have been removed.[5,6] The pipe leading from the plant to the storage tank was reportedly severed during excavation to determine the source of TCE contamination in the area.[4] Three monitoring wells and the Chromatex facility well are located along this side of the plant. The facility well is located approximately 20 feet from the plant entrance. A cluster of 3 monitoring wells is located off site, on the opposite side of Jaycee Drive, approximately 175 feet from the building.[2]

The southwestern side of the plant contains a utility area. A paved driveway parallels the building. Two off-site monitoring wells are located along this side of the building. One monitoring well is located 150 feet southwest of the southern corner; the second monitoring well is located 150 feet southwest of the western corner (see figure 2.2, page 2-3). Both wells are located on the property of All Steel Equipment, Incorporated.[2]

The site is bordered to the southwest by All Steel Equipment, Incorporated, approximately 500 feet from the facility. Continental White Cap, Incorporated lies approximately 250 feet west of the facility. North of the site are a small patch of woods and several industries; the closest industry is approximately 1,000 feet away. Northeast of the site is a small residential section located approximately 100 feet from the site boundary. Woodlots border the site to the east. The Valmont Shopping Plaza is located approximately 2,000 feet east of the site.[2]

2.3 Ownership History

The property was originally owned by CAN DO, Incorporated, a nonprofit development organization located in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. CAN DO, Incorporated constructed a building shell at the site in 1963. In 1965, Wallace Metal Products bought the property and occupied the property until 1972. Since that time, Wallace Metal Products has gone out of business.[7,8] In 1972, Futura Fabrics, a division of Chelsea Industries, purchased the property and operated at the site until 1978, when the Valmont Group, of Paterson, New Jersey, purchased the property.[7,8,9,10] The Valmont Group immediately leased the property to Chromatex, Incorporated. Several partners of the Valmont Group were stockholders in Chromatex, Incorporated until December 1986, when the outstanding stock of Chromatex, Incorporated was sold to Rossville Industries, Incorporated, of Rossville, Georgia. The Valmont Group is still the current owner of the property; Chromatex, Incorporated is the lessee.[10,11]

2.4 Site Use History

The available information indicating the history of the site dates back to 1963, when CAN DO, Incorporated constructed a building shell in the Valmont Industrial Park. The building remained empty until 1965, when Wallace Metal Products, a coffin manufacturer, bought the property. Wallace Metal Products' operations at the site are unknown. Wallace Metal Products occupied the site until 1972.[7,8]

In 1972, Futura Fabrics, a manufacturer of knitting fabrics and drapery material, purchased the property from Wallace Metal Products. Futura Fabrics' operations at the site are unknown; however, in a letter from a representative of Futura Fabrics, it was asserted that no solvent-type materials were used at the facility. Futura Fabrics occupied the site until July 1978.[7,8,9]

In July 1978, the property was bought by the Valmont Group and immediately leased to Chromatex, Incorporated.[7,8,11] Chromatex manufactures upholstery fabric. Chromatex sprayed TCE on the fabric as a transporter of Scotchguard (a stain repellent). An underground 10,000-gallon tank was used in case of spills and emergencies. The facility used a solvent vapor recovery system for the application of TCE onto the fabric. TCE was reclaimed using an activated carbon recovery system. TCE was stored in two 5,000-gallon above-ground storage tanks located inside the building. The use of TCE was discontinued in mid-1988.[3,4]

2.5 Permit and Regulatory Action History

Chromatex, Incorporated notified EPA of its RCRA status in August 1980. The Chromatex, Incorporated facility RCRA identification number is PAD000779942. A PA DER RCRA inspection in 1987 did not note any violations (see appendix A). The facility has no other permits.[3,12]

2.6 Remedial Action to Date

EPA emergency funding was needed in December 1987 to install a public water line to the residential section immediately northeast of the site, after high levels of TCE were found in a number of residential wells.[3,4]

Attention was called to the area as a result of a spill that occurred in October 1987 at Continental White Cap, which is located west of the Chromatex facility. Continental White Cap notified PA DER of a small spill of some alcohols. Upon further investigation by PA DER, home wells northeast of Chromatex were sampled after complaints by residents. Sample results from PA DER revealed concentrations of TCE as high as 1,400 ppb. This initiated further investigation by the EPA Technical Assistance Team (TAT) in October 1987.[6]

TAT sampled the residential wells and conducted a soil gas survey of the Chromatex property in 1987. Results from the residential well sampling indicated TCE levels as high as 1,400 ppb. Soil gas results revealed two TCE plumes at the Chromatex facility. One small plume located near the western corner of the building revealed concentrations as high as 3.2 ppm of TCE in the soil gas. A much larger plume, located along the northern, northeastern, and eastern sides of the building, revealed TCE concentrations from 0.1 to 12.5 ppm of TCE; the largest hits were obtained near the eastern corner of the building. In addition, a head-space analysis was conducted on the underground emergency storage tank, and a level of 1,100 ppm TCE was revealed.[13,14]

Based on these preliminary results, an extent of groundwater investigation was undertaken, which involved the construction of 11 monitoring wells (see figure 2.2, page 2-3). Information concerning the monitoring wells can be found in table 1 (page 2-7), and sample results are summarized in table 2 (page 2-8). The extent of contamination study revealed that a major source of the groundwater contamination is located near monitoring well no. 11, near the eastern corner of the Chromatex building, and that the contamination in the residential wells did not originate from the underground storage tank.[13]

The contents of the underground storage tank were ordered by PA DER to be removed. The 10,000-gallon underground storage tank was almost completely filled to capacity. The contents were pumped to two 5,000-gallon tankers. The results of samples taken from the tankers, after they were filled with the contents of the underground storage tank, are found in table 3 (page 2-9).[6]

TABLE 1

MONITORING WELL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Well No.	Total Depth (feet)	Smallest Diameter (inches)	Depth of Inner Casing (feet)	Depth of Outer Casing (feet)	Depth of Interval Monitored (feet)	Approximate Yield of Monitored Interval (gpm*)
1A	50.0	6	22	None	22 to 50	3.8
1B	80.5	6	55	None	55 to 80.5	< 1.0
1C	110.0	4	86.5	None	86.5 to 110	1.3
2	55.5	6	15	None	15 to 55.5	2.33
3	47.0	6	18	None	18 to 47	1.00
4	55.0	6	15.5	None	15.5 to 55	3.75
5	45.0	6	15	None	15 to 45	1.1
10A	50.0	6	17	None	17 to 50	2.5
10B	82.0	6	57	20	57 to 82	< 1.0
10C	130.0	6	87	27.5	87 to 130	1.5
10D	15.0	4	15	None	13 to 15	<1.0
11	55.0	6	20	None	20 to 55	2.0

*gallons per minute

TABLE 2

VOLATILE ORGANIC CHEMICALS DETECTED
IN CHROMATEX MONITORING WELLS

Well No.	Volatile Organic Chemical	Level [ug/l (ppb)]
2	1,1,1-trichloroethane TCE	630 600
10A	1,1-dichloroethene 1,1-dichloroethane 1,2-dichloroethene 1,1,1-trichloroethane carbon tetrachloride TCE	36 21 180 2,300 5.8 9,900
10D	1,1-dichloroethane 1,2-dichloroethene 1,1,1-trichloroethane TCE	9.8 84 20 570
11	1,1-dichloroethene 1,1-dichloroethane 1,2-dichloroethene 1,1,1-trichloroethane TCE tetrachloroethene toluene ethylbenzene	280 370 1,030 13,000 17,000 35 140 29

TABLE 3

SAMPLE RESULTS

Tanker J 701

Compound	Level (mg/l)
1,1,1-trichloroethane	23
TCE	3,500
methylene chloride	4
1,1-dichloroethane	1.7
toluene	1

Tanker B 680

Compound	Level (mg/l)
1,1,1-trichloroethane	3,700
TCE	720
methylene chloride	600
1,1-dichloroethane	300
1,1-dichloroethene	65
toluene	870

SECTION 3

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 Water Supply

Surface water and groundwater sources are utilized to supply potable water to all people living within the three-mile-radius study area of the Valmont Site.

The Hazleton Water Authority (HWA) supplies potable water to Hazleton Borough, West Hazleton Borough, and Hazle and Sugarloaf Townships within the study area. Water is obtained from 6 surface water intakes and 12 groundwater wells located throughout the distribution area. Of these sources, only two surface intakes and eight wells lie within the three-mile-radius study area. The Barnes Run and Harleigh intakes are located 2.56 miles southwest and 2.65 miles east-northeast of the site, respectively. The daily average withdrawals from Barnes Run and the Harleigh Reservoir are 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) and 168,000 gallons per day (gpd), respectively. Barnes Run is pumped to the Humboldt Reservoir, located 3.1 miles southwest of the site. Mount Pleasant well nos. 2, 5, and 6 are located between 2.65 and three miles south of the site, respectively. Well nos. 2, 5, and 6 are drilled to depths of 227, 402.5, and 425.5 feet and have yields of 240, 300, and 319 gallons per minute (gpm), respectively. The Valmont East and West wells, more commonly known as the "CAN DO" wells, are located 0.81 and 0.97 mile north of the site, respectively. The Valmont East well is the nearest well to the site. Both wells, drilled to an approximate depth of 400 feet, are used for emergency purposes only and tap the Pottsville Group and the Mauch Chunk Formation. Water reserves from the entire system are fully integrated. Water from all wells and reservoirs enters the same distribution system; therefore, any combination of surface water and groundwater volume percentages are possible. HWA supplies a total population of approximately 40,000.[15,16]

The Conyngham Water Company (CWC) supplies water to the borough of Conyngham, located 2.84 miles northwest of the site. This company supplies a total of 2,400 persons with water obtained from a 5-well field located at the southwestern corner of the borough, approximately 2.25 miles northwest of the site. These wells range in depth between 230 and 400 feet. They draw from the Mauch Chunk Formation. CWC also obtains water from a tunnel bored into Sugarloaf Mountain, approximately 1.7 miles northwest of the site.[17]

All remaining residents within the study area are assumed to maintain private groundwater wells. For 18 wells within Hazle Township (in the study area), the average depth and yield are 141 feet and and 16 gpm, respectively. These wells tap either the Pottsville or the Mauch Chunk unit. For 12 on-site monitoring wells, the average depth to bedrock is 7.75 feet beneath the surface. At the time of drilling, the average static water level for these wells was 19 feet beneath the surface.[13,18]

3.2 Surface Waters

The topography of the site is relatively flat. Surface drainage from the site appears to lead toward Black Creek, which is located approximately 1,250 feet north of the site. Black Creek flows in a westward direction and appears to be the only stream that may be potentially affected within a three-mile radius of the site.[1,2] Black Creek is classified as a cold-water fishery for the maintenance and propagation of fish species that are indigenous to a cold-water habitat. Although the wetland map for the Conyngham quadrangle is unavailable, the map for the Hazleton quadrangle, immediately east of the site, shows a wetland area exceeding five acres in size along Black Creek. This habitat is situated approximately 1.5 miles east of the site.[19,20]

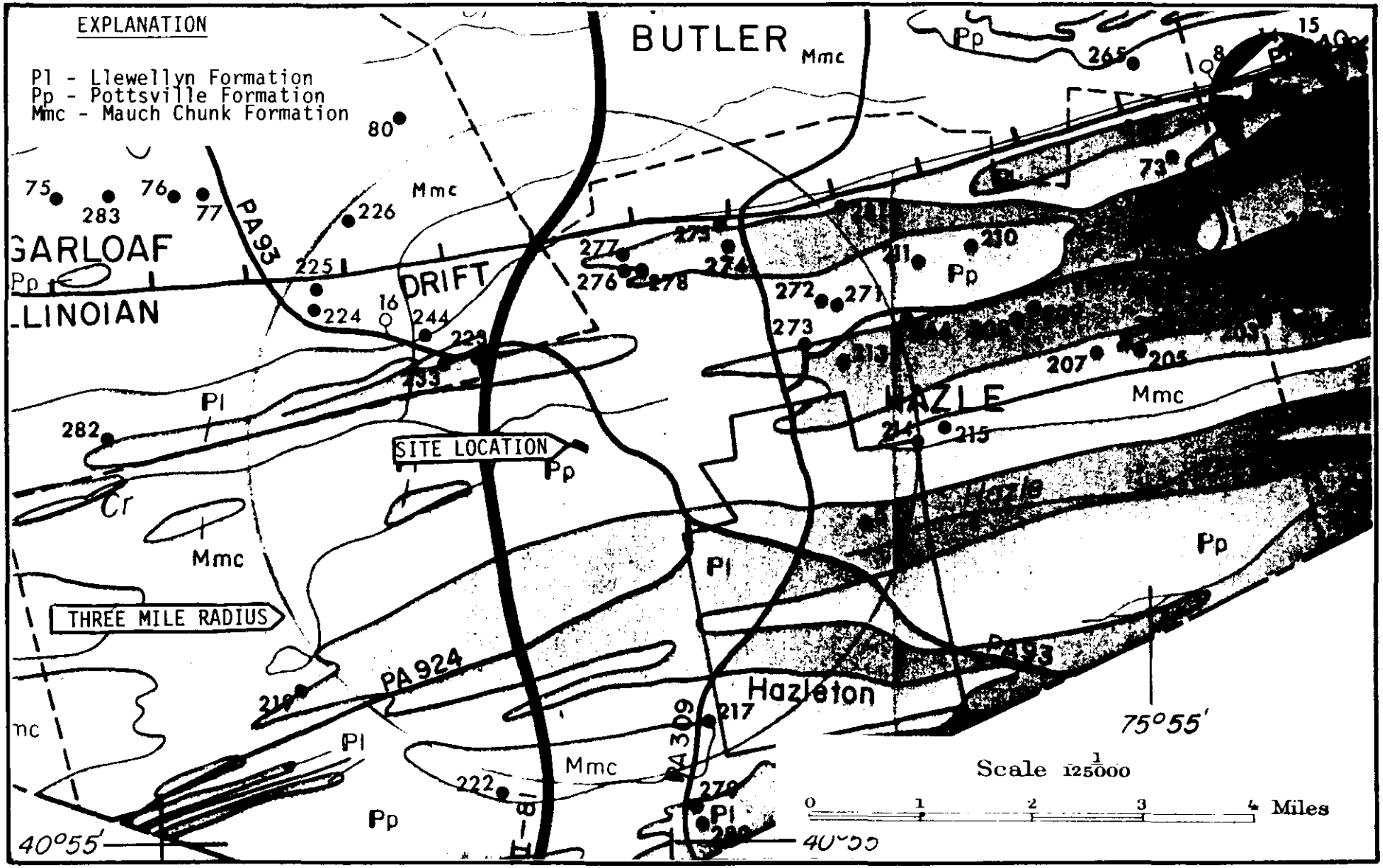
3.3 Hydrogeology

The geologic and hydrogeologic conditions in the study area were researched as part of the site investigation. A preliminary literature review was conducted to determine surface and subsurface geologic conditions, soil character, and the status of groundwater transport and storage.

3.3.1 Geology

The three-mile-radius study area surrounding the Valmont site lies within the Appalachian Mountain Section of the Valley and Ridge Physiographic Province (see figure 3.1, page 3-3). This region is characterized by a series of alternating northeast-southwest-trending, narrow, steep-sided ridges and valleys. The area is underlain by broadly folded Mississippian and Pennsylvanian age sedimentary rocks. The site is situated along the apex of a broad, regional syncline on which numerous secondary anticlines and synclines have formed. A trellis drainage pattern dominates the study area.[1,21,22]

The Pennsylvanian age undivided Pottsville Group is encountered subjacent to soils beneath the site and is exposed across much of the central portion of the study area. The Pottsville is composed primarily of a well-bedded, hard, coarse quartz conglomerate, white and gray sandstone, brown sandstone, and a few thin seams of coal. Joints in sandstone and conglomerate are well developed, widely spaced, wide open, and oriented both vertically and horizontally. The bedding thickness ranges from thin in shales to massive in sandstones. The Pottsville contains three distinct formations (in descending order): the Sharp Formation, the Schuylkill Formation, and the Tumbling Run Formation. The maximum thickness of the Pottsville is estimated to be about 300 feet.[21,22,23]



SOURCE: Pennsylvania Geological Survey. Summary of Ground-Water Resources of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. WRR 40, 1977.

GEOLOGIC MAP

VALMONT SITE

FIGURE 3.1

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The Pennsylvanian age Llewellyn Formation stratigraphically overlies the Pottsville and is exposed one mile south of the site. The Llewellyn consists of well-bedded sandstone, conglomerate, shale, fire clay, slate, and many seams of coal. Joints are moderately developed and abundant, moderately spaced, open, and steeply dipping. The sandstone and conglomerate units are well cemented but highly fractured. The maximum stratigraphic thickness is 2,200 feet but, due to erosion, is probably much less within the study area.[21,22,23]

The Mississippian age Mauch Chunk Formation underlies the Pottsville Group beneath the site, at a depth of less than 300 feet. The Mauch Chunk crops out 1.38 miles north of the site and is exposed across the northern one-third of the study area. The Mauch Chunk is composed of red and greenish-gray shale and red and green sandstone. The red shale and sandstone constitute the majority of the thickness of the formation throughout the southern parts of Luzerne County, but they thin toward the north. The maximum stratigraphic thickness is 2,000 feet within Luzerne County.[21,22,23]

3.3.2 Soils

The entire site area is mapped as being underlain by cut and fill materials. These materials are not classified as a soil series but as a land type blanketed by undifferentiated soils. Therefore, general statements regarding soil characteristics such as texture, permeability, and pH are not applicable.[24]

3.3.3 Groundwater

The Pottsville Formation directly underlying the site is an important water-bearing formation throughout Luzerne County, except where exposed on high ridges. The Pottsville typically yields moderate to large supplies of good-quality water. Groundwater storage and movement occur through both primary porosity and secondary porosity, in the form of fractures. Many wells drilled into the Pottsville are artesian. Well depths throughout Luzerne County range between 22 and 1,900 feet beneath the surface. The deeper of these wells penetrate the Pottsville where it is steeply dipping and/or where other formations are encountered. The median well depth in Luzerne County is 185 feet. Well yields range from less than 5 to greater than 150 gpm; the median yield is 50 gpm.[21]

Although well yields can be moderate to large, contamination associated with coal seams is a severe problem in the Llewellyn Formation. Typically, potable water cannot be obtained from wells tapping the Llewellyn. Well depths in Luzerne County range from 115 to 900 feet. Yields range between 2 and 50 gpm.[21]

The Mauch Chunk is one of the better water-bearing formations in Luzerne County and also supplies adequate amounts of water for domestic use from shallow wells. Municipal and industrial supplies can be obtained from deeper wells. In particular, the fractured sandstone and shale units provide the most water. Mauch Chunk well depths in Luzerne County range between 20 and 1,557 feet; the median depth is 203 feet. Yields, highly dependent upon lithology, are quite variable and range from less than 5 to 250 gpm.[21]

All remaining residents with the study area are assumed to maintain private groundwater wells. For 18 wells within Hazle Township (in the study area), the average depth and yield are 141 feet and 16 gpm, respectively. These wells tap either the Pottsville or Mauch Chunk units. For 12 on-site monitoring wells, the average depth to bedrock is 7.75 feet beneath the surface. At the time of drilling, the average static water level for these wells was 19 feet beneath the surface.[13,18]

Hydraulic tests at the site have determined that the site lies upon a hydrologic divide (a recharge area). Rainwater infiltrates the soil and rock beneath the site and migrates in one of two preferential downgradient directions. North and east of the main building, groundwater migrates primarily to the north, discharging into Black Creek, 0.5 mile away. South and west of the site, groundwater migration is toward the southwest, also eventually discharging into Black Creek. There are no mapped barriers to groundwater flow within the study area, and it is probable that all formations are fully interconnected through a pervasive system of joints and fractures.[1,13,21]

3.4 Climate and Meteorology

Temperature and precipitation information for the site is based on data collected at Freeland, Pennsylvania, approximately 7.5 miles northwest of the site. The average annual temperature for Freeland, Pennsylvania is approximately 47.0° F. The average monthly temperatures range from a low of 23.3° F in January to a high of 69.4° F in July.[25] The average annual precipitation for Freeland is approximately 46.5 inches. The range of precipitation varies from 4.87 inches in the wettest month, August, to 2.81 inches in February, the driest month. The mean annual lake evaporation is approximately 32 inches. This results in a net annual precipitation of approximately 14.5 inches. A 1-year, 24-hour rainfall will generate approximately 2.45 inches of rain.[25,26,27]

3.5 Land Use

The site is located in an industrial park. Industry borders the site to the north, west, and south. A small residential development is located immediately northeast of the site. Woodlots and a commercial development are located east of the site. The borough of West Hazleton and the city of Hazleton are located less than one mile east of the site.[2]

3.6 Population Distribution

The population within a 1-mile radius of the site is estimated to be approximately 2,777 people. The population between a 1- and 2-mile radius of the site is estimated to be approximately 15,987 people; therefore, a cumulative total of approximately 18,764 people live within a 2-mile radius of the site. The population living between a 2- and 3-mile radius of the site is estimated to be approximately 18,832 people; therefore, a cumulative total of approximately 37,596 people live within a 3-mile radius of the site. Population figures were calculated using standard house counts multiplied by 3.8 people per house and by obtaining a census figure for the borough of West Hazleton and city of Hazleton, using a Rand McNally Commercial Reference Map and Guide.[1,28]

3.7 Critical Environments

According to the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, there are no known endangered species within a three-mile radius of the subject property.[29] Also according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, two federally listed endangered birds are expected to be found as transient species in the vicinity of the site. These species are the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) and the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus). There is no known critical habitat for these species in the project area.[29]

SECTION 4

4.0 WASTE TYPES AND QUANTITIES

Waste types and quantities for Wallace Metal Products, which operated at the site from 1965 until 1972, are unknown. Waste types and quantities for Futura Fabrics, which operated at the site from 1972 until 1978, are unknown, although a representative of the company asserted that no solvents were used at the Futura Fabrics plant.[9] The Chromatex facility, which has operated at the site since 1978, used TCE until June or July 1988. A 1987 PA DER inspection noted that approximately 1,049 gallons of TCE were used per month. Of the 1,049 gallons used each month, 912 gallons of TCE were reclaimed through an activated carbon recovery system. It is uncertain whether these monthly figures are reflective over the history of the Chromatex operation at the plant. In October 1986, the activated carbon adsorption system was serviced and recharged. This produced 8,015 pounds of spent carbon containing traces of TCE. BES Environmental Services transported this waste under manifest no. PAB3045722 to Envirotrol, Incorporated, in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, on October 3, 1986.[12,29]

SECTION 5

ORIGINAL

5.0 FIELD TRIP REPORT

5.1 Summary

On Thursday, April 27, 1989, NUS FIT 3 members George Horvat and Carl Rodzewich conducted a preliminary assessment of the Valmont Site (Chromatex No. 2 Plant). NUS FIT 3 was accompanied by Steven Engelmyer and Shawn Gogola, the site representatives. Weather conditions at the time of the site visit were sunny and calm, with a temperature of approximately 65°F. Photographs of the site were obtained (see figure 5.1, page 5-4, and the photograph log, section 5.4).

5.2 Persons Contacted

5.2.1 Prior to Field Trip

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ORIGINAL

5.2.3 After Site Visit

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W. Kevin O'Donnell
Executive Vice President
Greater Hazleton Community Area New
Development Organization
Northeastern Building
Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201
(717) 455-1508

5.2.4 Water Supply Well Information

No residential water supply wells currently in use were identified within a one-mile radius of the site.

5.3 Site Observations

- The background HNU reading was 0.2 ppm; no readings above background were recorded.
- The mini-alert was set at X1. No readings above background were recorded.
- A large, relatively square building is located on the property. The topography of the site is relatively flat, with one small drainage ditch to the east.
- A spill basin was located on the northeastern side of the building, where TCE was pumped into two 5,000-gallon above-ground storage tanks.
- There were two areas of empty drums along the southeastern side of the building. The labels on the lids of several drums indicated that they contained some type of lubricating oil.
- Eleven monitoring wells scattered around the facility. Four were located along the northeastern side, two were along the southeastern side, two were along the southwestern side, and three were along the northwestern side.
- An underground storage tank was located in an area of excavation near the northern corner of the building.
- A roof drain was located near the eastern corner of the building, between a storage shed and a garbage bin.
- The site is bordered to the southwest by All Steel Equipment, Incorporated, approximately 500 feet from the facility. Continental White Cap lies approximately 250 feet west of the site. North of the site are a small patch of woods and several industries. A small residential section borders the site to the northeast. Woodlots and a commercial plaza border the site to the east.

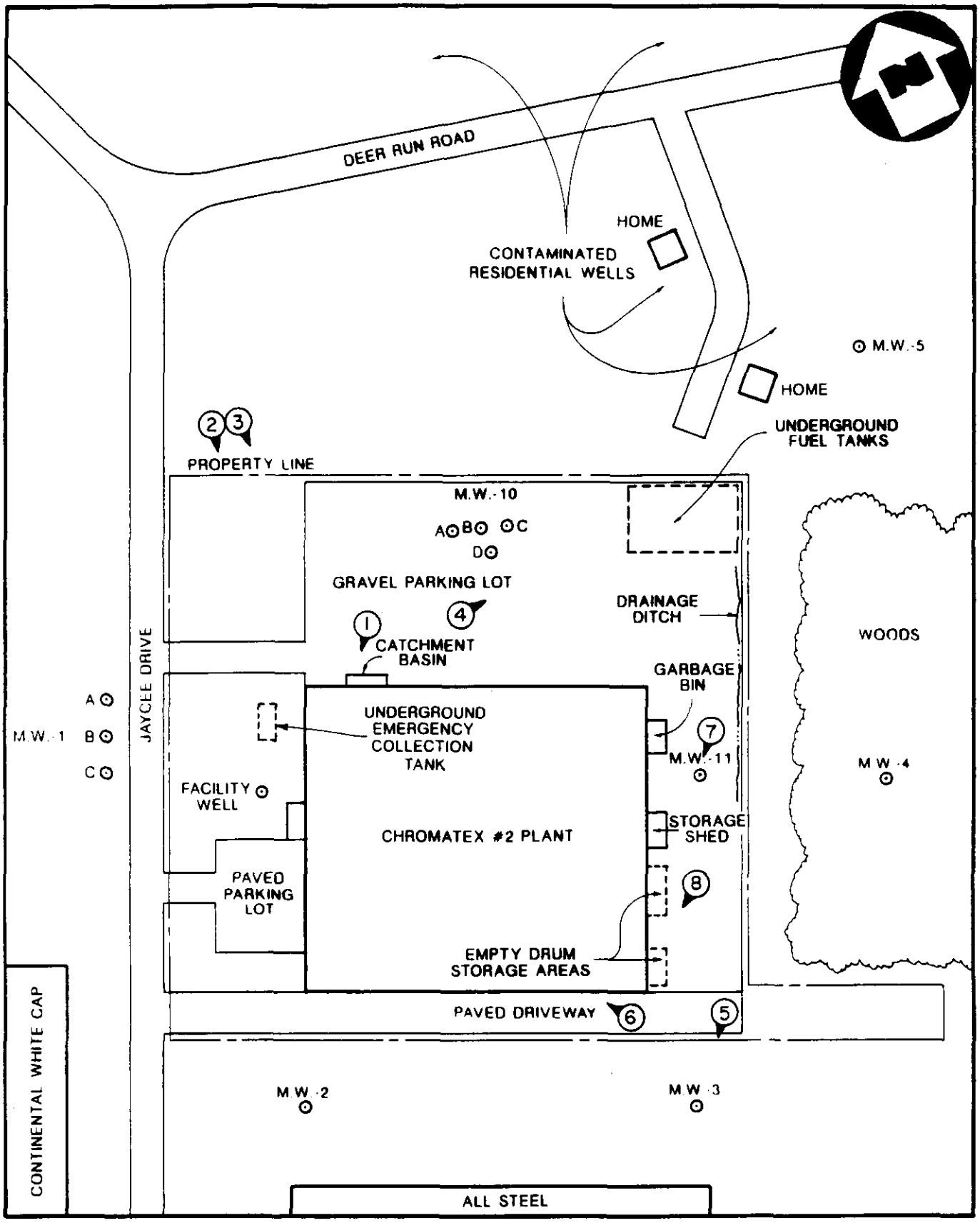

FIGURE 5.1

PHOTO LOCATION MAP
VALMONT SITE, WEST HAZLETON, PA.
(NO SCALE)

NUS CORPORATION

EPA REGION III
SUPERFUND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

DOC ID # 406229
PAGE # _____

IMAGERY COVER SHEET
UNSCANNABLE ITEM

Contact the CERCLA Records Center to view this document.

SITE NAME Valmont Industrial
OPERABLE UNIT 00
SECTION/BOX/FOLDER 1c - 3 - 1,001

REPORT OR DOCUMENT TITLE Field Investigation Team Activities at Uncontrolled Hazardous Substances Facilities - Zone 1
DATE OF DOCUMENT Aug. 18, 1988
DESCRIPTION OF IMAGERY Photograph log

NUMBER AND TYPE OF IMAGERY ITEM(S) 8 photos

AR100610

F3-8904-12 ORIGINAL (Red)

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
PA	2245

II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION

01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site)	02 STREET, ROUTE NO., OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER				
Valmont Site (Chromatex No. 2 Plant)	Jaycee Drive, Valmont Industrial Park				
03 CITY	**04 STATE**	**05 ZIP CODE**	**06 COUNTY**	**07 COUNTY CODE**	**08 CONG DIST**
West Hazleton	PA	18201	Luzerne	079	11

09 COORDINATES LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
40° 58' 04" N	076° 00' 56" W

10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road)

Head north out of West Hazleton on Route 93 (Valmont Parkway). Go past the Valmont Shopping Center and make a left onto Deer Run Road. Go straight for approximately 1,500 feet and make a left onto Jaycee Drive. Chromatex is the first plant on the left.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

01 OWNER (If known)	02 STREET (Business, mailing, residential)			
Valmont Group, Incorporated c/o Stanley Siegel	77 Wood Street			
03 CITY	**04 STATE**	**05 ZIP CODE**	**06 TELEPHONE NUMBER**	
Paterson	NJ	07524	( ) Unknown	
07 OPERATOR (If known and different from owner)	**08 STREET** (Business, mailing, residential)			
Chromatex Incorporated	Jaycee Drive			
09 CITY	**10 STATE**	**11 ZIP CODE**	**12 TELEPHONE NUMBER**	
West Hazleton	PA	18201	(717) 459-0700	

13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)

☒ A. PRIVATE ☐ B. FEDERAL _____ (Agency name) ☐ C. STATE ☐ D. COUNTY ☐ E. MUNICIPAL

☐ F. OTHER _____ (Specify) ☐ G. UNKNOWN

14 OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check all that apply)

☒ A. RCRA 3001 DATE RECEIVED: 8 / 80 (MONTH / DAY / YEAR) ☐ B. UNCONTROLLED WASTE SITE (CERCLA 103 c) DATE RECEIVED: ___ / ___ / ___ (MONTH / DAY / YEAR) ☐ C. NONE

IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD

01 ON SITE INSPECTION

☒ YES ☐ NO DATE 4 / 27 / 89 (MONTH / DAY / YEAR)

BY (Check all that apply)

☐ A. EPA ☒ B. EPA CONTRACTOR ☐ C. STATE ☐ D. OTHER CONTRACTOR

☐ E. LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL ☐ F. OTHER: _____ (Specify)

CONTRACTOR NAME(S): NUS Corporation FIT 3

02 SITE STATUS (Check one)

☒ A. ACTIVE ☐ B. INACTIVE ☐ C. UNKNOWN

03 YEARS OF OPERATION

1965 (BEGINNING YEAR) | present (ENDING YEAR) ☐ UNKNOWN

04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT, KNOWN, OR ALLEGED

TCE has been found in monitoring wells on site as high as 17,000 ppb.

05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION

Residential wells immediately northeast of the site are contaminated with TCE. EPA emergency funding supplies a hookup to a public water supply.

V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT

01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or medium is checked, complete Part 2 - Waste Information and Part 3 - Description of Hazardous Conditions and Incidents)

☐ A. HIGH (Inspection required promptly) ☒ B. MEDIUM (Inspection required) ☐ C. LOW (Inspect on time available basis) ☐ D. NONE (No further action needed, complete current disposition form)

VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

01 CONTACT	02 OF (Agency/Organization)			03 TELEPHONE NUMBER
Robert Panebianco	U.S. EPA			(215) 597-8333
04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT	**05 AGENCY**	**06 ORGANIZATION**	**07 TELEPHONE NUMBER**	**08 DATE**
George Horvat	NUS Corp.	FIT 3	(215) 687-9510	5 / 25 / 89 (MONTH / DAY / YEAR)

EPA FORM 2070-12 (7-81)

AR100611

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 2 - WASTE INFORMATION

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
PA	2245

II. WASTE STATES, QUANTITIES, AND CHARACTERISTICS

01 PHYSICAL STATES (Check all that apply)

_ A SOLID
_ B POWDER, FINES
_ C SLUDGE
_ D OTHER (Specify)
_ E SLURRY
X F LIQUID
_ G GAS

02 WASTE QUANTITY AT SITE
(Measures of waste quantities must be independent)

TONS: _____
CUBIC YARDS: Unknown
NO OF DRUMS: _____

03 WASTE CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply)

X A TOXIC
_ B CORROSIVE
_ C RADIOACTIVE
_ D PERSISTENT
_ E SOLUBLE
_ F INFECTIOUS
_ G FLAMMABLE
_ H IGNITABLE
X I HIGHLY VOLATILE
_ J EXPLOSIVE
_ K REACTIVE
_ L INCOMPATIBLE
_ M NOT APPLICABLE

III. WASTE TYPE

CATEGORY	SUBSTANCE NAME	01 GROSS AMOUNT	02 UNIT OF MEASURE	03 COMMENTS
SLU	SLUDGE			
OLW	OILY WASTE			
SOL	SOLVENTS	10,000	gallons	Removed from underground storage tank
PSD	PESTICIDES			and transported off site.
OCC	OTHER ORGANIC CHEMICALS			
IOC	INORGANIC CHEMICALS			*The activated carbon system also con-
ACD	ACIDS			tained trace amounts of TCE.
BAS	BASES			
MES	HEAVY METALS			

IV. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (See Appendix for most frequently cited CAS Numbers)

01 CATEGORY	02 SUBSTANCE NAME	03 CAS NUMBER	04 STORAGE/DISPOSAL METHOD	05 CONCENTRATION	06 MEASURE OF CONCENTRATION
SOL	trichloroethene	79-01-6	underground storage tank	3,500	mg/l
SOL	1,1,1,-trichloroethane	71-55-6	underground storage tank	3,700	mg/l
SOL	methylene chloride	75-09-2	underground storage tank	600	mg/l
SOL	1,1-dichloroethane	75-34-3	underground storage tank	300	mg/l
SOL	1,1-dichloroethene	75-35-4	underground storage tank	65	mg/l
SOL	toluene	108-88-3	underground storage tank	870	mg/l

V. FEEDSTOCKS (See Appendix for CAS Numbers)

CATEGORY	01 FEEDSTOCK NAME	02 CAS NUMBER	CATEGORY	01 FEEDSTOCK NAME	02 CAS NUMBER
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		
FDS			FDS		

VI. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g., state files, sample analysis, reports)

NUS FIT 3. Preliminary assessment, Valmont Site, F3-8904-12, April 27, 1989.
EPA File Information.
Chromatex Plant No. 2, West Hazleton, PA. Extent of Groundwater Contamination Study, PHASE 1, prepared by International Exploration, Incorporated. January 1989.

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ORIGINAL (Red)

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE	02 SITE NUMBER
PA	2245

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

01 ☐ A. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION — 02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE 10/87) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 37,596/3 mile — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Residential home wells immediately northeast of the site had levels of TCE as high as 1,400 ug/l. On-site monitoring wells had concentrations as high as 17,000 ug/l.

01 ☐ B. SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 2,777/1 mile — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Black Creek is located approximately 1,250 feet north of the site. However, it appears that surface water contamination is unlikely because the site is relatively flat and there were no discernible surface water drainage pathways.

01 ☐ C. CONTAMINATION OF AIR — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None reported or observed.

01 ☐ D. FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None reported or observed.

01 ☐ E. DIRECT CONTACT — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None reported or observed.

01 ☐ F. CONTAMINATION OF SOIL — 02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE 10/87) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 7 (Acres) — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Soil samples near the pipe leading from the facility to the underground storage tank revealed TCE contamination. Soil gas study showed TCE in soil at concentrations up to 12.5 ppm.

01 ☐ G. DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION — 02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE 10/87) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 37,596/3 mile — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Contamination of home wells immediately northeast of the site had levels of TCE as high as 1,400 ug/l. EPA Emergency Funding provided a hookup to municipal water in December 1981.

01 ☐ H. WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY — 02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 WORKERS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None reported or observed.

01 ☐ I. POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY — 02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE 10/87) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 135 — 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Home wells immediately northeast of the site were contaminated with TCE. EPA Emergency Funding was necessary to hook up to the public water system. Approximately 35 homes required hookups.

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ORIGINAL (Red)

EPA

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION
01 STATE: PA | 02 SITE NUMBER: 2245

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS (Continued)

01 ☐ J. DAMAGE TO FLORA
02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None reported or observed.

01 ☐ K. DAMAGE TO FAUNA
02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (Include name(s) of species)

None reported or observed.

01 ☐ L. CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN
02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

None reported or observed.

01 ☐ M. UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES (Spills/runoff/standing liquids/leaking drums)
02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE: 5/88) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 37,596/3 mile
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Two plumes of TCE were encountered on the property. The locations of these plumes were based on information from a soil gas study and an extent of groundwater contamination study.

01 ☐ N. DAMAGE TO OFFSITE PROPERTY
02 ☒ OBSERVED (DATE: 10/87) ☐ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Home wells immediately northeast of the site were contaminated with TCE. EPA Emergency Funding was necessary tohook up to public water system.

01 ☐ O. CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, STORM DRAINS, WWTPs
02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A fire at the facility in May 1985 activated the sprinkler system and flooded the building. It's possible at this time that wastes might have entered the storm drain.

01 ☐ P. ILLEGAL, UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING
02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____) ☒ POTENTIAL ☐ ALLEGED
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

A plume of TCE is located along the eastern part of the building. TCE was utilized at the site for a number of years. The source of the TCE contamination has not been documented.

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS

Part of the activated carbon system located on the roof malfunctioned, releasing activated carbon contaminated with TCE to the roof.

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 37,596/3 mile

IV. COMMENTS

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references, e.g., state files, sample analysis, reports)

NUS FIT 3. Preliminary assessment, Valmont Site, F3-8904-12, April 27, 1989.
Chromatex Plant No. 2, West Hazleton, PA. Extent of groundwater contamination study, PHASE I, prepared by International Exploration, Incorporated. January 1989.
State file information.

EPA FORM 2070-12 (7-81)

SECTION 6

6.0 REFERENCES FOR SECTIONS 1.0 THROUGH 5.0

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5. Gadinski, Robert, Hydrogeologist, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, with George Horvat, NUS FIT 3. Telecon. May 23, 1989.

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